

Hallow. was identical with *Eumesodon semicarinatus*^a Cope; also that *Aepideab* Hallow. could not be distinguished from *Gonyosoma Wagl.*

He stated that he had also noted that Dr. Girard's *Rhabdion occipitale* from Australia, was a Najid of the genus *Glyphodon*^d *Gthr.*; perhaps distinct from the species described by the latter author. *Callirhinus*^e of the same author was not isodont, as stated by him, but glyphodont, and bearing some resemblance to *Malpolon Fitz.* *Simotes ancorus* expressed the true generic association of his *Xenodon ancorus*^f; it is from Luzon, and identical with *Simotes phænochalinus* Cope. The *Erythrolamprus venustissimus* of the same author,^h is properly *E. albostolatus*ⁱ Cope.

Specimens of *Lepidosternum Florida* Baird^k were exhibited. Mr. Cope stated that this Amphibænian reptile was evidently typical of a form generically distinct from *Lepidosternum*, which he would name *Rhineura*. In the form of the head, and presence of nasal shields it resembled *Phractogonus Hallow.* from Africa; in the shielding of the crown and absence of preanal pores it was similar to *Lepidosternum*. It differed from both in the depressed, superiorly tuberculous tail. This structure was appropriate to its burrowing habits. The eyes, if existing, were entirely invisible. According to Prof. Baird, the *R. Florida* was common in the country from which it takes its name. It emerges from its subterranean retreats after thunder showers; hence its vernacular name of "Thunder Worm."

The specific characters were as follows: A broad crescentic rostral plate: immediately posterior to this on the median line are an oblong frontal, broader than long, and a large irregularly pentagonal vertical, with its posterior angle prolonged between two small occipitals; three small plates on each side of the vertical. Four superior labials on each side—the last three times the size of the third. The first separated from that of the other side by a trapezoid inferior rostral, and bounded above by a transversely elliptical nasal, which is pierced by the nostral above its centre. Three loreal plates in a series behind the nasal and above the labials—the first much the longest. Superior maxillary teeth five on each side; the anterior pair longest; inter-maxillary one; mandibular, each ramus, six. Inferior labials three or four; one symphyseal, one pair genials, one mento-labial on each side. Sternal plates small, irregular, about twelve in number. Vent very crescentic; three pairs of preanal plates in a longitudinal series. Fourteen rings upon the tail, all more or less tuberculous superiorly except the two basal ones. Color dirty white; upper surface of the head yellowish.

April 9th.

MR. LEA, President, in the Chair.

Forty-nine members present.

A paper was presented for publication, entitled

"On the marine shells brought by Mr. Drexler from Hudson's Bay, and on the occurrence of a Pleistocene deposit on the Southern shore of James' Bay, by W. Stimpson," and was referred to a Committee.

Mr. Cope made some remarks defining the following species of Reptilia Squamata: two of them he regarded as representing genera not previously known. He said: The generic form which I propose calling *Diphalus*, belongs

^a Op. cit. 1860, p. 263. ^b Op. cit. 1860, p. 488. ^c Herpetology U. S. Expl. Exped. p. 120. ^d Catal. Colubr. Brit. Mus. p. 210. ^e Herpetology U. S. Expl. Exped. p. 139. ^f Op. cit. p. 167. ^g Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1860, p. 244. ^h Herpetology U. S. Expl. Exped. p. 169. ⁱ Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1860, p. 250. ^k Op. cit. 1858, p. 253.

to the Amphisbænidæ, and may be diagnosed as follows: Dentition pleurodont; muzzle conic, acute; nostrils lateral, each in a single plate, which is separated from that of the opposite side by a backward prolongation of the rostral. Two elongate rostro-frontals, in contact with the rostral anteriorly. Eye visible beneath the ocular shield. Preanal pores present.

D. fenestratus Cope had been discovered in the West Indian Islands of St. Thomas and Santa Cruz, by Mr. A. H. Rüse, of the former. The largest specimen obtained measured nine inches and six lines in length. The species is of cylindrical form. The dermal rings are uninterrupted, divided into squares above, more broadly segmented on the abdomen; caudal whorls twelve. Three upper labial plates, second much the longest, and in contact with fronto-rostral. Ocular trapezoid, anteriorly acute. Two or three temporals, two cuneiform frontals. One small symphyseal, and one large genæal, both of them but little longer than broad. Three inferior labials, third twice the size of the first, one-fourth the size of the second. Color pale brownish white, each dermal segment marked with a small rectangular brown spot. The animal differs from *Typhloblanus caecus* Fitz., in the separation of the nasal plates, from *Cadea punctata* Gray, in the double rostro-frontal, and from both in the distinctness of the eyes.

Amphisbæna angustifrons is allied to *A. Pretrei* and *A. vermicularis*, but has a much shorter tail than either, beside other characteristic peculiarities. The form of the muzzle is quite similar to that of the species above described, being compressed conic. Rostral plate triangular, its apex only visible from above, separated from the rostro-frontals by the united nasals, as in the other species of the restricted genus. Rostro-frontals rather broad, the anterior outline curved, the posterior more curved. Thus the frontal pair, whose posterior border is also curved, exhibit an almost circular outline. A trapezoid ocular, bordered above by the rostro-frontal, posteriorly by a large temporal. Three upper labials, commissural border of the first longer than that of the others. Its supero-anterior border continuous with that of the second, its posterior with that of the nasal. One subtriangular symphyseal; one large gemmiform, genæal; its anterior angle truncate; three inferior labials, second much the largest, bounded beneath by a subtriangular mento-labial; third labial small, elongate. Five superior maxillary teeth on each side, seven intermaxillaries (medial longest,) sixteen mandibulars. Four preanal pores; vent curved, bordered by ten narrow preanal plates. Caudal rings fifteen or sixteen. A specimen in the Academy Museum was brought from Buenos Ayres, by Dr. Kennedy.

Loxocemus Cope is a very remarkable genus of peropodous Ophidians, exhibiting several points of resemblance to the Calamarians, such as its cylindrical body, short tail, small eye, and narrow, conic head. The rostral plate finds a parallel in that of *Rhinocheilus* Bd. and Grd. and *Arizona Kenn.* also less closely in *Stenorhina Dum.* There is also a striking resemblance in the form of the head and pupil of the eye to *Olisthenes Cope*, (*Scytale* Boie, nec Merr., *Pseudoboa* Cope, nec Schneid.) *O. Neuwiedii* is quite similar in its style of coloration to *L. bicolor*. Without acquaintance with other allied genera, it is difficult to decide as to whether *Loxocemus* should enter the *Boinae*, or be regarded as the type of a new subfamily of aglyphodont eury-stomatous serpents. Its diagnosis will be as follows: Body stout, cylindrical; tail short, urosteges two-rowed. Anal spurs small; metatarsal and tarsal bones large, tibia elongate curved, compressed and expanded at the distal extremity. Preanal plate bifid; gastrosteges narrow; scales smooth. Head small, indistinct, superiorly plane. Muzzle prominent, obliquely truncate. Rostral plate large, transverse, slightly elevated, encroaching on the prefrontals. Two pairs of frontals, the anterior very transverse, the posterior not completely separated from the large loreal. An elongate polygonal vertical. One small superciliary on each side, a narrow lateral occipital, and a

[April,